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PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...tax reductions, not the other way around.
Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Madam President, members. I'm not a wizard of the body. I've never been called that or I'm sure a lot of folks don't think I am one. And I'm sure I don't have all the stats and figures that Senator Raikes has and some of the other members. I'm not on the Revenue Committee, nor am I on the Appropriations Committee, but I'd like to throw my two cents in for what it's worth. One thing, whatever we do is in statute, you know, and eight months, we can come back and change things. If the state starts falling apart and the sky starts falling, we can change things. It's in statute, it's not in the constitution. I've been told that we cut \$165 million in property taxes, but we've given \$172 (million) in state aid. Well, we've replaced all the money that to cut through state aid. A while back when I first entered the body, there was folks who advocated just for a tax shift instead of a tax cut, and that was the popular...popular opinion. That was one of the reasons why, you know, 411, 412, et cetera and all these petition drives. Well, we've done it, we've shifted. Some individuals, some senators want more property tax cuts. Well, you know, can we afford them? If we keep on replacing every dollar that we save in property tax, with over a dollar of replacement revenue, what is our budget going to end up? Property taxes ultimately, at some point in time, are going to have to start coming from efficiencies and spending on the local government levels. It can't...I, hopefully, it can't...keep on falling from the sky like manna, more money from Lincoln. People have voiced concerns about some of the cuts we're going to have to make, we might have to make, we will have to make, depending on who you listen to. Well, if we don't do anything and a group of concerned citizens, after we adjourn, start a process, a petition process to limit our spending, what type of cuts do you think we're going to have to make then? If you truly care about tomorrow, think about the day after tomorrow and all those other tomorrows. There has to be some restraint.